

Riddell Kurczaba Architecture Engineering Interior Design Ltd.

Building for the Future Today

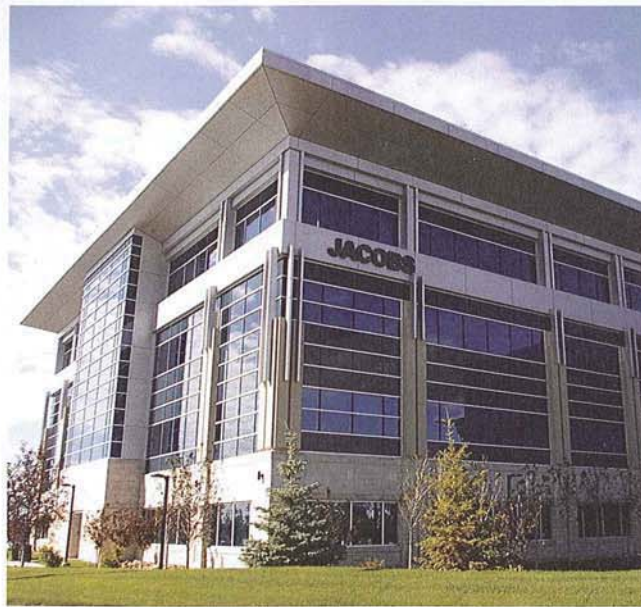
Produced by Hanim Samara & Written by Molly Cohen

The origins of Riddell Kurczaba Architecture Engineering Interior Design Ltd. can be traced to 1983 when John Riddell started up a small architectural practice in Calgary, but the firm's watershed moment occurred in 1988 when Riddell and business partner Ron Kurczaba formed Riddell Group Architects and Engineers. Riddell Group was a burgeoning consulting venture in western Canada that focused on creating building infrastructure solutions for the advanced technology sector. The company's excellence in this area enabled it to expand its sphere of expertise to industrial and oil & gas projects, and the Riddell Group's enterprising spirit and mounting successes fed growth into other sectors, such as commercial office, retail and institutional work.

The company morphed formally into Riddell Kurczaba in 1998 after integrating interior design as part of its core practice, and today the company is headquartered in Calgary with a branch office in Edmonton and another planned for Saskatoon. Over the years Riddell Kurczaba has brought on new people with a wide variety of expertise who have become senior associates and now double as directors for the firm's myriad focus areas. This talented leadership team has amplified the company's ability to attract diverse clientele and serve unique project requirements.

Meeting Client Needs Through Technology

Riddell Kurczaba is currently known for its work in "suburban offices, industrial, residential, resorts, and the oil and gas sector," says Director of Architectural General Practice Brook Melchin.



Melchin, who got his architecture degree in 1984, explains that Riddell Kurczaba holds architecture and interior design in-house and only subcontracts engineering. The company's in-house capabilities are enhanced by one of the most innovative visualization and animation studios in western Canada, in which the firm specializes in 3-D renderings and high-quality, real-life animations. These animations are not limited to architecture; the company has designed for infrastructure planning, light rail transit (LRT), bridges, public spaces, master planning, and the petroleum and mining industries. The studio shows how buildings, structures and developed areas will be viewed once completed and how people can use and enjoy the developed spaces.



Much like its cutting-edge 3-D technology, Riddell Kurczaba is also ahead of the curve when it comes to sustainable design. The firm has four LEED Accredited Professionals and has made a

large effort to include sustainable design into its practice as more clients become familiar with the benefits of ecologically informed, energy-efficient materials and techniques. Through this effort Riddell Kurczaba has already completed LEED-certified projects, as well as noncertified projects that implement LEED initiatives.

These 3-D and sustainable capabilities feed into Riddell Kurczaba's truly entrepreneurial design philosophy, which urges its employees to step out of their comfort zones to tackle new and challenging opportunities. Riddell Kurczaba uses its flexible management structure to respond to client needs and go the extra mile to satisfy the customers' demands, while utilizing proven management systems and tools to support project success.

Maintaining Relationships

Riddell Kurczaba has been able to forge and maintain long-term relationships with several clients based on this attentiveness to detail. Riddell Kurczaba has spent the last 12 years developing a strong relationship with Remington Development Corporation, a company that appreciates Riddell Kurczaba's ability to respond to a demand quickly and with solutions that remain within the project's schedule and budget requirements. As a result, Riddell Kurczaba and

Remington have completed more than 10 million square feet of industrial, residential and commercial buildings together.

Currently Riddell Kurczaba is working on a major project for Remington. This project – Quarry Park – is Calgary's largest Live-Work-Play community and one of North America's most spectacular mixed-use developments, featuring a substantial residential component and more than 1 million square feet of office space and retail space upon its completion. As one of Remington's preferred architects, Riddell Kurczaba started designs for Quarry Park in 2006, with six of the office buildings already constructed and other projects on the horizon. The area was designed with stress reduction in mind, so there are planned daycare and fitness centers to go with facilities, parks and pathways.

The project included site planning, landscaping and a connection to a proposed LRT line. "The site planning has sustainable aspects, is an industrial reclamation site, and features storm water management that is sensitively done," shares Melchin, who is one of the design architects for Quarry Park structures assigned to Riddell Kurczaba. "The buildings follow the best practices and would be equivalent to LEED ... they represent a style that is excellent corporate quality and all the buildings incorporate natural stone."

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The first building completed on the site is a four-story facility for Jacobs Canada Inc. Jacobs uses the 350,000-square foot building as its headquarters for its technical services. The building has the capacity to hold more than 2,000 employees

and has been occupied for one year. Other areas of Quarry Park include additional office spaces, a medical professional building, a community theater, plus a hotel and conference space.



Bud Tornberg Interiors Ltd. has had the opportunity to do all of the base building, exterior steel studs and most of the interior tenant work complete. We are very proud to be part of the Quarry Park Project in Calgary, Alberta for several reasons. First of all the vision that Remington Development had the foresight to build basically a city within a city that is growing so fast. By doing this along with Leeds Program, in my opinion, we are all helping our planet.

People can shop, go out for dinner and walk to work from their own homes. Working with Riddell has always been a very professional relationship with which expectations and high quality standards are met.

One of the other things that made this project successful is working with trades and superintends for years and this creates efficiency and a bond for timely construction and getting the job done.

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"We work closely with our client, and [Remington's president] is very engaged and makes an effort to pay attention to every building," Melchin says.

Survival Skills

Much like its ongoing relationship with Remington, Riddell Kurczaba has standing offer agreements with several organizations, including Public Works and Government Services Canada. Most of Riddell Kurczaba's work comes from repeat clients, references and referrals. Having built a sterling reputation over the course of its history, the bulk of Riddell Kurczaba's work comes basically through word-of-mouth.

These relationships have been especially important and beneficial for Riddell Kurczaba during the current

recession. It has been challenging for firms throughout the region to find work because of reluctance on the part of the developers to invest in building infrastructure. However, it appears the recession is receding and Riddell Kurczaba continues to thrive. Riddell Kurczaba's resilience was based on its past track record with loyal clients who were willing to put their faith in the company's skills and continue working, despite the unstable flow of money in the development and construction world.

Without economic concerns, Melchin is only kept awake at night by the compelling nature of the firm's innovative



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Arpi's is proud to be a part of the Quarry Park projects.

Arpi's continues to bring its experience and competency in the design and installation of sheet metal product and equipment to large projects like this. Remington Developments has a wonderfully straightforward approach to project management and is a great company to work for. Remington creates a positive team environment committed to its goal and action plans and their subcontractors can depend on their financial stability. The buildings are beautiful with their clean lines and design. The layout successfully captures that community feeling of "live, work, play" sought after by so many other developments.

About Arpi's Project Manager

Peter Baily, Certified Engineering Technologist
 Peter has been with Arpi's for 32 years and has vast experience in warehousing, office building construction, HVAC design, and installation.

designs. "When I get involved, I end up processing and living with the design," he says. "You have to sleep on it and then decide what to do."

In the next one to two years, Riddell Kurczaba's focus is being clearly placed beyond the recession. Melchin and the organization are in discussions with numerous companies for future projects, drawn to Riddell Kurczaba Architecture Engineering Interior Design for its client-centric architectural services. ■



TSE Steel Ltd is proud to be part of the RKA team, working together on the construction of the many buildings that they designed for Quarry Park.

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